



Olmsted Point Rehabilitation and Restoration Project

Why undertake this project?

Last summer, beginning in August 2005, Yosemite National Park, along with The Yosemite Fund coordinated an effort to restore and rehabilitate Olmsted Point.

Olmsted Point was in need of repair due to increased erosion that had occurred in the area. A population of marmots had taken up residence in the rock footings under the parking area and over the years damage from this caused a failure of the curb wall and created a safety hazard.

Where is the project located?

Olmsted Point vista viewing area is along the Tioga Road at 8,400 feet and overlooks the dramatic granite landscape sprawled out along the Sierra Nevada. Named after Frederick Law Olmsted, the “father of American landscape architecture”, this vista area sits approximately 30 miles east of Crane Flat, and just west of Tenaya Lake.

This vista provides visitors with views of Tenaya Lake, flanked by Polly, Piywiak, and Medlicot Domes; Mt. Conness and Tresidder Peak; and Tenaya Canyon, dominated by Cloud’s Rest and Half Dome.

What does this project entail?

Once completed, this project will provide new retaining walls, wayside exhibits, access for the disabled, seating, and a loop trail that leads to a spectacular view of Tenaya Canyon and Half Dome above Yosemite Valley.

Restoration of adjacent areas that have been severely degraded by trampling and erosion will also be done with this project. In addition, the project defines and/or formalizes the existing parking area at Olmsted Point. Specific elements of the project are to:

- Reconstruct the wall with concrete footings for integrity
- Rebuild the wall with white granite blocks
- Dry- lay granite rocks around the wall for a natural appearance
- Provide seating for visitors
- Install a four- inch barrier along the edge of the wall for wheelchair safety
- Build ramps for handicapped access
- Create new wayside exhibits that interpret the area
- Restore the neighboring degraded habitat
- Replace existing concrete gutter and curb
- Provide trailhead information
- Reorganize parking slots and improve traffic flow to lessen congestion

What is the schedule for this project?

Construction on this project began on August 24, 2005 and will continue through to completion after the area re- opens for the season in summer 2006.

During the course of construction work, the parking area and vista point will remain open, as crews will work on part of the project area at a time. However, the Olmsted Point area will most likely be congested for the duration of the project, so please use necessary precautions when parking and visiting the point.

Public Participation

Here are some ways to learn more and stay involved:

- Add your name to the park's mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning- related notices. You can also submit your email address to receive Yosemite National Park's periodic electronic newsletter.

Mail: Superintendent
Attn: Planning Mailing List
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Fax: 209/379- 1294

Email: YOSE_Planning@nps.gov

- The status of other Yosemite National Park improvement projects will be periodically updated on the park's planning web site. Visit online: www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

This project was made possible by a \$1.6 million grant from The Yosemite Fund, a nonprofit park partner that is the primary fundraising organization for Yosemite National Park. Visit The Yosemite Fund's web site at www.yosemitefund.org.



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